



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOPLIN, REED SPRINGS, PINEVILLE MEN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three southern Missouri men were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Christopher S. Deweese**, 26, of Joplin, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon and drug user in possession of a firearm.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Deweese**, having a previous felony conviction, illegally possessed a Davis Industries .380-caliber pistol with ammunition on July 6, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Deweese** was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. The indictment alleges that **Deweese** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine when he possessed the pistol on July 6, 2005.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Thomas Boaz**, 49, of Pineville, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Boaz**, having a previous felony

conviction, illegally possessed a Colt .38-caliber revolver and a Marlin .22-caliber rifle on March 28, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Boaz**, having a previous felony conviction, illegally possessed a Beretta 9 mm pistol on Oct. 6, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Michael D. Stacy**, 23, of Reed Springs, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Stacy**, having a previous felony conviction, illegally possessed a Remington .22-caliber rifle with ammunition on March 23, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Stone County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html